



Hands on Habitat

State of Alabama

What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** We have lost more than 10,000 acres along the Alabama coast since the 1950s.
- **Oysters** We have lost more than 50% of Alabama's native oyster reefs over the past 100 years.
- **Coastal development** Baldwin County alone experienced a 43% population increase between 1990 and 2000.
- **Derelict gear** Lost and abandoned crab traps continue to fish Gulf waters.

Background

Alabama's salt marshes, oyster reefs, and seagrass meadows provide productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. These marine and estuarine habitats support the state's tourism, fishing, and seafood industries, contributing more than \$1.3 billion to the economy annually.

What We Do

- Restore salt marshes
- Find alternatives to hardened shorelines
- Create and restore oyster reefs in their historic locations
- Improve tidal flow to areas impacted by causeway and dike construction
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships with Alabama's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation in Alabama.



Our Accomplishments

Since 1999, we have:

- Awarded more than \$550,000 and leveraged almost \$600,000
- Managed \$2 million in Congressionally directed funds
- Funded 16 projects
- Completed 10 projects
- Restored more than 85 acres of coastal habitat
- Engaged more than 1,100 volunteers for almost 14,000 service hours through partner-led activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 32 local, private, and public organizations in Alabama, including the Mobile National Estuary Program, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, University of South Alabama, The Nature Conservancy, and Alabama Coastal Foundation.

Our Focus

Counteract the impact of human activities on commercial and recreational fishing opportunities in coastal Alabama

Contact

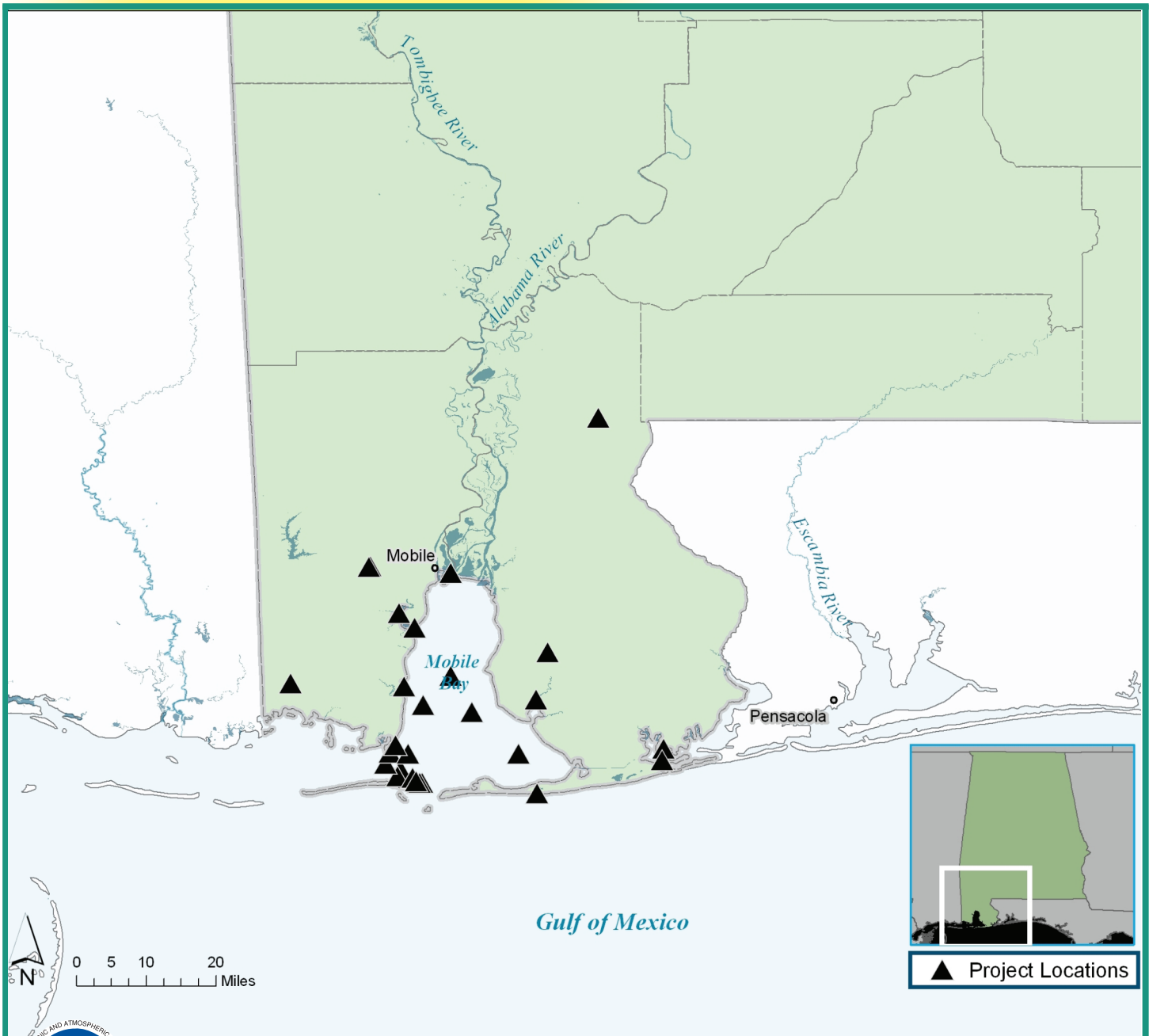
Leslie Craig
NOAA Restoration Center
NOAA Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
727.551.5786
leslie.craig@noaa.gov

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration

Last updated December 2007

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

State of Alabama



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Alonzo Landing Salt Marsh
Habitat Restoration, Dauphin
Island**

**Bohemian Park Stream
Restoration Project, Fairhope**

**Bon Secour Bay Oyster
Spawner Reef Restoration,
Mobile County**

**Dog River Fringe Wetland
Creation, Mobile**

**Grand Bay Prescribed
Burning, Grand Bay**

**Helen Wood Park Wetland
Restoration, Mobile**

**Mobile Bay Crab Trap
Recovery, Mobile County**

**Mobile Bay Oyster Gardening
Program, Mobile County**

**Mobile Bay Grass Restoration,
Baldwin County**

**Mon Luis Island Marsh
Restoration Pilot Project,
Theodore**

**Robinson Island Seagrass and
Dune Restoration, Orange Beach**